

Thank you for your many contributions to our Nation, Ken, and Happy Birthday on this centennial milestone.

#### RECOGNIZING SHANA RUNCK

#### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shana Runck as she receives the White House Champion of Change award. Each week, the President of the United States honors local leaders, who perform extraordinary work on a daily basis in their community to build a better America.

Shana is the Assistant Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Capabilities with New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union. Every day she shares her experience and knowledge, providing financial education and job training to at-risk Latino students in New Mexico. Shana is a true role model, instilling in others the same confidence that drives her success. She shares her work ethic in a selfless way and teaches others that with persistence and determination, anything is attainable.

Our very own city of Albuquerque is fortunate to have such a remarkable person in Shana. She has played a vital role in developing the City of Albuquerque's "Running Starts for Careers" program, and she has designed the Financial Services Career Exploration course to ensure they receive college credit for their internship experience. Shana's outstanding work within the local community has helped students continue their education and get job-training in trade fields that interest them.

Shana exemplifies the bedrock principles of our nation; civic engagement, love for our neighbor, an understanding that one ripple of change can soon become a current, and the idea that one individual can have a profound impact on a community. I have no doubt that Shana will continue to accomplish great things in all her future endeavors.

#### HONORING PROJECT CHILDREN AND FOUNDER DENIS MULCAHY

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Project Children.

Since its founding in 1974, Project Children has brought over 22,000 children from both Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland to America, uniting them with over 15,000 American host families for a summer of peace and a lifetime of friendship. Summer vacation in the United States has given these children a break from the conflict and politics of their country and a chance to experience what many might take for granted during their youth.

Denis Mulcahy and his brother Pat founded the program together after they immigrated to

New York. A retired member of the New York City Police Bomb Squad, Denis is truly the heart and soul of Project Children. His extraordinary dedication to peace and understanding has made a tangible difference in the lives of many in the U.S. and in Northern Ireland, and to the peace process on the island.

A nonprofit all-volunteer organization, the program has fostered countless friendships among communities in Northern Ireland, Ireland, and America. Project Children along with host families, coordinators, fundraising volunteers, benefactors, and alumni here in the United States have played a pivotal role in the growth of this organization.

Project Children has had a tremendous impact on the peace process along with U.S. and Irish relations. This group is one of the organizations that laid the community-wide foundation for the Good Friday Agreement, while continuing to serve as an example of the power of peace and reconciliation efforts at the grassroots level—as well as the power of individual leadership exemplified by Denis Mulcahy.

During my time as a member of Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, I have been fortunate enough to be a part of many significant achievements in implementing peace in Northern Ireland. I have seen firsthand what organizations like Project Children have done to offer hope and a better life for future generations. Without this organization's commitment along with the leadership of Denis Mulcahy, many young men and women from Northern Ireland would not have the quality of life they have today. Congratulations to both Project Children and Denis Mulcahy on this momentous occasion.

#### CALIFORNIA 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the success of our districts and the livelihood and future of our communities relies heavily on the devotion and service of those who go above the call of duty, willing to devote their time and energy to improving society and the lives of people around them. This fall, through my 2014 Women of the Year awards, I have made an effort to recognize, honor, and celebrate the vital contributions of outstanding women in my district.

Each of these women exemplifies sacrifice and devotion. These civic leaders have helped improve their communities in various ways, and are compelling advocates for critical issues including education, flood protection, environmental stewardship, and the arts. They promote healthy communities, organize events to promote world peace, and raise community awareness to end bullying. They are all women in California's Third Congressional District who have succeeded in bettering their communities and the lives of those around them—living proof that when women succeed, America succeeds.

Throughout our history, America's foremothers have made great strides in securing their equal rights and equal treatment under the law. And while we have come so

far, there is still work to be done. We stand on the shoulders of giants, but that does not mean we should cease to reach further. Thanks to these women and others like them, I see our communities reaching further every day.

Pat Ash (City Councilwoman and preservationist; Williams—Colusa County): Pat Ash, the current mayor of Williams, has served as a Williams City Council Member for many years. She is the founding and most active member of Citizens for a Better Williams, known locally as CBW.

Through her membership on the city council and in CBW, Pat has played a crucial role in beautifying vacant areas, including a parcel that was annexed into the town square park. An outstanding example of Pat's leadership and generous spirit is her preservation of the aging Masonic Hall in town. Pat recently purchased it herself, thus maintaining its historic value to the city and county.

Under Pat's sustaining leadership CBW recently arranged for a mural to be painted on the Masonic Hall, adding local interest and a festive atmosphere to this popular park. On June 7th, the mayor hosted a mural dedication ceremony that featured Governor Jerry Brown and relatives of W.H. Williams, founder of the town. Through her creativity and tenacity, Pat has been instrumental in organizing Williams' Summer Concerts in the Park series featuring local musicians. The venue offers the community a place to mingle and for nonprofit groups to hold fundraisers. In further testimony to Pat's enduring appreciation for her city, she has written a book illustrating the influence of Western Europeans settling in Williams. Pat's fellow citizens appreciate her efforts to preserve and showcase the city's history.

Marci Coglianese (Municipal law attorney, former city official, land use advocate; Rio Vista—Solano County): Marci Coglianese, past mayor and council member for the City of Rio Vista, has practiced municipal and environmental law for more than 25 years. Her achievements in furthering good land use planning, and environmental and risk management practices for the Delta are extraordinary. Marci represented the League of California Cities on the State Floodplain Management Task Force and on the public advisory committee to update the California Water Plan. She has been instrumental in protecting Solano County farmland and served as co-chair of the Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee of the Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the Rio Vista Army Base Steering Committee.

Marci has always been a vocal and staunch advocate for fairness and for racial and gender equality in local government. After assuming office she was notable for her openness in listening and responding to the needs of her constituents of every political stripe and economic status. A person of the highest integrity and forthrightness, Marci sets an exemplary standard for all in political office, from the smallest village to the national capitol. Despite serious illness and family trauma, she has maintained a manner of openness, grace, and humor toward even her most bitter opponents. Marci Coglianese is greatly loved and admired by all who know her.

Deborah Eernisse (Fitness instructor, mentor, and volunteer; Davis—Yolo County): Deborah's outstanding trait is her ability to build community with diverse groups of all ages, particularly around fitness and health. In Davis she has built a supportive community of older adults who remain active and engaged in their own health and happiness. Her "Fit for Life" program at the Davis Senior Center has reduced injuries, falls, and the